

1. My Last Day at School (A Farewell Party)

"The true art of memory is the art of attention" (Longfellow)

Memories carry great significance (اہمیت) in man's life. My last day at school is a pleasantly sad memory. I still remember my last day at school. We were bidden farewell by class IX. It was Sunday. We reached school at 3.00 pm. The school hall was beautifully decorated for the farewell function. The party began at 4:00 pm. For about half an hour, we ate to our hearts' content (جی بھر کر), gossiped (گپیں لگائی) and laughed very much.

The farewell function started at 5:00 pm. Salman, a student of class X, made a moving (جذبائی) speech in which he mentioned our long and deep association (تعلق) with the school and the classroom. He wished us every success in future (مستقبل).

After this speech, I, thanked the host (میزبان) on the behalf of (کی طرف سے) my class. In my speech (تقریر), I lauded (سراہا) the good arrangements (انتظامات), made by the host and accepted their good wishes for all of us. I was feeling sad because of the separation from my old and august institution in whose lap (گود) got education. For me, it was not merely (محض) a school, but it was a cradle (گہوارہ) of culture (ثقافت) and civilization (تہذیب). In the end, the venerable (قابل احترام) headmaster made a speech in which he appealed us to build our mind and character on sound lines. He advised us to adhere (دوست ہونا) to the glorious (شاندار) traditions of this institution (ادارہ).

After his inspiring (حوصلہ افزاء) speech, the function came to an end. We left our school with heavy hearts casting our last looks at this great institution.

"We must always have old memories and young hopes" (Samuel Johnson)

2. Sports and Games

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"

Sports and games play a significant (اہم) role in the development of human personality (شخصیت). They are as important for human body as food grains (غذائی اشیاء) and fresh water. They keep us active, healthy and smart.

Games and sports are extra-curricular activities (غیر نصابی سرگرمیاں). They are an important part of our school curriculum (نصاب). Pakistani students are very fond of sports and games. The facilities (سہولیات) are, of course (بے شک), inadequate (تاکافی) at present. The situation is expected to improve in the near future.

Games and sports create in us the sense of discipline (نظم و ضبط). The captain of the team works like a leader and the team has to obey the captain. All these things create sportsman spirit in the minds and souls of the players. They learn to lead their life in a disciplined manner.

"Sports do not build character, they reveal it"

Games and sports are a very good and useful source of recreation (تفریح). They utilize (استعمال کرتا) the extra (زائد) time of the young generation. So their personality develops and they do not indulge in (حصہ لینا) such activities like gambling (جوا بازی) and drinking (شراب نوشی).

Sports and games keep our body and soul healthy. "A sound mind is always in a sound body." Health is Wealth. If one loses health, one will not be able to carry out one's duties efficiently (بہترین احسن). As a result, he will be left behind in the race of progress.

3. My House

"Houses are built to live in, not to look on"

Desire (خواہش) for a shelter place is innate (فطری) in all living creatures. Birds may wander the whole day long but come to their nests in the evening. Cattle may roam about in search of grazing fields but return in the evening to their resting place. Wild beasts (جنگلی درندے) have dens of their own. Bees have honey hives, ants and even snakes have their holes as resting place.

A house is an important necessity. It is just like the lap of a mother. A mother's lap gives comfort to a child and the house to its owners. So, what comfort (سکون) a man feels in his house, he does not feel anywhere. The quality of life improves (بہتر ہوتا) when we have house of our own. It gives us an opportunity to translate some of our dreams into reality. We decorate our rooms according to our taste (ذوق). We look after our plants and flowers with a loving care.

I live in a small house. It is situated (واقع ہوتا) on the main road. It has been built recently. It lies in the thickly populated area. It is very comfortable, well lighted and airy. It has two storey. The upper storey (منزل) has four rooms. The lower storey has a hall, a drawing room, a dining room and a kitchen. All the rooms are airy and well lighted. They are whitewashed. All the rooms have been fitted with electricity. The drawing room is well furnished with carpets and sofa sets. It has been decorated with beautiful paintings. My father provides us with everything that adds to our joy and comfort. I spend most of my time in drawing room.

There is a small courtyard in my house. It has a marble floor. It is very cool in hot weather. We play here and sleep in summer season. Our neighbours are very good people. We are on good terms with them. On one side of the house, we have a very high wall, but, on the other, it is quite low.

There is a small garden in front of my house. My father and I love to work in it. We prune the bushes in a year. My mother loves roses and spring flowers. She looks after flowerbeds from time to time. Our house is a blessing of God, indeed. I like my house very much and can easily get all the comforts and requirements of my life at home. Whenever, I am away from my home, I remember my house and I recall the famous saying, "East or west, home is the best." I am away from my home. Man has special love for his home, so do I. I love my house very much.

4. Courtesy

"Small courtesies sweeten life, the greater ennoble it"

Courtesy means polite behaviour. It springs from good breeding and kindness of heart. A courteous man is always polite and observes good manners on all occasions. He always respects the feelings of others and does not hurt them at any cost.

Courtesy demands that we should be polite and pleasant in our attitude. Our religion lays great stress on the need of courtesy. Islam teaches us politeness and good manners in every sphere of life. Muslims greet one another, saying "Assalam-u-Alakum" and they often add some remarks about each other's health and welfare.

Courtesy demands that we should speak gently to everyone. Our words may break a heart or heal it. Courtesy costs nothing but it pays a lot. It consoles the dejected souls. It brings us sincere friends.

Good manners demand that we should wait for our turn. In a crowded bus, we should offer our seat for the women, weak or disabled. We should help the blind to cross the road. We should respect humanity in order to make everyday life really comfortable and worth living. Courtesy fulfills this need amply and aptly. A hadith reads:

"The best amongst all of thee is one who shows good manners"

5. Libraries

Libraries are a part and parcel of a civilized society. They are huge treasure of knowledge. Every library has a large number of books on many subjects. Libraries provide us information about current affairs as well as past events. People doing research

(تحقیق) can avail themselves of these treasures of knowledge. Libraries quench (بجھانا) the thirst for knowledge. They supplement (تازہ ترین) the reader's knowledge by providing exact and latest (تازہ ترین) information. It is a matter of regret (افسوس) that our library system is not functioning properly. Our libraries remain open when people are busy in their work and they are closed in the evening when people are free from daily business.

There is no whole-time staff for libraries. Besides this (اسکے علاوہ), there is no incentive (ترغیب) to read general books. There is no proper ventilation (ہوا کا گزر) in our libraries. Books lying in locked shelves stink (بدبو آنا) awfully (خوفناک حد تک) due to the want of (کمی) fresh air.

Libraries play an important role in creating a genuine (اصلی) love of books and interest in current affairs. The reading rooms of libraries develop a sense of discipline, research and enquiry. There is a variety of attractive (پُرکشش) titles in a library which imprint a healthy and beneficial (مفید) effect on the eager minds of the readers.

6. Health

"He who has health, has hope, and he who has hope, has everything" (Emerson)

Health is the most important reason to live a life. Life becomes a heavy load without health. That is why, it is said, **"Health is Wealth"**. Loss of health is, no doubt, a living death. On the contrary, health is a life-giving tonic. It is total hope in life.

The remarkable thing is that life cannot exist without good health. Health is the pith and marrow of life. It shows hope, progress, confidence and thankfulness to God. Life is a sad scene without health. A healthy man can think positively in all affairs of life. It is health which equals all the stages of life. "If you are happy, if you are feeling good, then nothing else matters."

Health is precious and it is a great blessing of God. Hygienic environment, personal cleanliness, simple food and a regular way of life are conducive to health. Early to bed and early to rise, meals at regular intervals and rest are sure ways to make man healthy, wealthy and wise. Young people who have plenty of energy need to take athletic exercise in the fresh open air.

A healthy body has a healthy mind which produces healthy ideas in all fields of life. As students, we should take great care of health because healthy people make healthy society. We should wear neat and clean clothes. We should take hygienic food. We should keep our environment neat and clean.

Health of faith is the most important thing for a Muslim. We, the Muslims have confused concept of faith due to a huge variety of sects in Islam. We are good sectarian school of thought but bad Muslims it has worsened the health of our faith Islam. We should take great pains to keep our faith healthy.

7. A Rainy Day

"Nature, like man, sometime weeps for gladness"

Seasons are the colours of Nature. The rainy season is a wet colour of Nature. A rainy day may be a curse as well as a blessing for people. Many people enjoy the rainy day but the poor residents always curse it to prove that:

"Vexed sailors curse the rain, for which poor shepherds pray in vain"

Last year, I really enjoyed when the first day of rainy season brought monsoon. It was 25th of July. Gasping people got big relief. The temperature had risen alarmingly. Newspapers carried reports of deaths due to heat-stroke. A night before, it had been very hot and humid.

On the first day of the rainy season, the sun was shining and the earth was burning. It was a dazzling sunrise. Surprisingly enough, the wind rustled through the swaying tops of trees. The scene was simply splendid. The heat was gone in no time. I saw the rolling mass of black clouds across the sky. There was a flash of lightening. The thunder roared. Large raindrops began to fall. The dry earth sucked them as they fell. In no time, streets turned into streams. The walls were drenched. Tree-leaves sparkled in glee. Birds became chirpy. There was pleasure among people. Everybody became excited and sporty. Low-lying areas were submerged. The old and the young alike ran up and down the flooded streets.

It rained for about two hours. Light vehicles broke down on the way. A rainbow appeared in the sky which added the beauty of the atmosphere. To me, the whole day was a whole life.

8. A Scene at the Railway Station

A railway station is a crowded (پُرجوم) and noisy (شوروغش والا) place in a big city. The rail-tracks (ریل کی پٹریاں) connect different towns and cities. The train is drawn by the heavy and powerful engine and it stops briefly (مختصر وقت کے لیے) for the passengers (مسافر) at railway stations. It is over-crowded (پُرجوم) with people.

The platform is full of passengers. There is a great hustle and bustle all around. There is an immense fever and fret for some passengers because the prospect of the long and arduous journey hangs heavy on their nerves. Some people are sitting on benches while others are walking here and there. The children are the most excited creatures. They look at the colourful (رنگارنگ) advertisements (اشتہارات). There are many stalls of fruit, tea, books and magazines. The vendors (خوآنچہ فروش) do roaring (دھوم دھام سے) business (کاروبار). Hawkers rush from one door of the compartment to the other to sell newspapers, journals, knick-knacks etc.

When the train arrives at the station, people rush to their compartments bumping into one another. Some pick their way politely. Every person tries to get into the bogie first. The train

stops for a few minutes. Then the guard blows the whistle (سیٹی بجائی) and also waves a green flag. The train starts moving slowly. After this, the scene at the railway station wears a deserted and desolate look.

9. A Hockey Match

There is a sensation (سنسٹی) and delight (خوشی) not only in playing games but also in witnessing (دیکھنا) them. We can see the spectators absorbed in the matches. The people can enjoy the games and forget the worries of their life. The beginners can learn the art of games when they examine (جانچ لیتا) the performance of the professional.

I was delighted to witness a hockey match between Pakistan and Germany at the National Hockey Stadium recently. The players of both the teams showed qualities of strength, speed, stamina (برداشت), agility (پہرتی) and mobility until the final whistle.

At 5 p.m., the rival captains led their teams on to the field. The captains walked up to the two umpires in the centre of the field for the toss. The German team lost the toss. The Pakistan team therefore took the side of their own choice, for the 1st half of the match. The Germans dominated in the beginning but the Pakistani players fought back and coordinated remarkably. The Germans made strong attempts (کوششیں) but our goalkeeper made spectacular (جارجانہ) saves.

After half time, the Pakistani players made a lightening attack at the Germans goal, and within a minute of the resumption (دوبارہ آغاز ہوتا), were leading by one goal to nil. This infuriated (غصہ دلانا) the Germans, and they went all-out to score the equalizer after a number of well planned moves on their post. They were rewarded with a goal. It was made by their Outside Right with such a powerful hit that the ball hit the net of the goal.

Only a quarter of an hour was now left, unless overtime had to be awarded. The game became very fast now. Both sides appeared to be determined (مہم ارادہ ہوتا) to win. Two minutes from the time, the centre forward of the Pakistani team made a brilliant goal.

With less than two minutes of the play, left there was little possibility (امکان) of the Germans equalizing the score. They fought hard to the end, the final whistle gave the victory (فتح) to the Pakistanis.

The crowd went wild with joy at the victory of Pakistan.

10. A Cricket Match

Nobody can deny (جھٹلانا) the importance of sports and games in life. They play a vital (اہم) role in building our body, muscles and nerves (اعصاب). Besides this, games teach us tolerance (بردباری) dignity (وقار), endurance (برداشت) and other moral values.

William Wordsworth believes that "the child who is busy in his game is really haunted by the visionary gleams of remembered heaven."

There is a sensation (احساسات) and delight (خوشی) not only in playing games but also in witnessing (دیکھنا) them. We can see the spectators absorbed in the matches. The people can enjoy the games and forget the worries of life. The beginners can learn the art of games when they see the performance (کارکردگی) of the professionals. Matches are the events full of enthusiasm (ہول), zest and gusto (جوش و خروش). A match is the most exciting activity. Some matches are quite thrilling, sensational and full of suspense (تجسس). Such matches are really enjoyable.

I also got a chance to witness such a match a few months ago. It was played between Pakistan and India, the two traditional (روایتی) rivals (حریف). India was favourite in that match. The stadium was jam packed with the spectators. The umpires with two captains came in the ground. The Indian Captain won the toss and decided to bat first. Both the openers entered the ground, running towards the pitch circling their bats around. The commentary on the match, both in English and Urdu, was exciting and enjoyable.

In the beginning, the match was a bit slow in tempo (رفتار). In the first ten overs, the Indian team could score only 50 runs for the loss of three wickets. The coming batsmen played well and they stroke a few good shots. Last five overs were the most exciting, for they scored 60 more runs in these overs. The total of the Indian team reached 268 runs in 50 overs for the loss of seven wickets.

After a short break, the Pakistani team started its innings in a very confident (پراعتماد) manner (اندراز). In the first seven overs, the Pakistani team easily scored fifty runs without losing any wicket. But in the 8th over Pakistan team lost its two wickets. But the captain of Pakistani team along with Umar Akmal played with great responsibility (ذمہ داری) and they succeeded in achieving the target in 49th over. Pakistan won the match by four wickets. Everyone was very happy and some excited spectators (تماشاگر) ran towards the ground, some started leaving and some kept sitting to see the prize distribution ceremony. Umar Akmal was declared the man of the match, for scoring a brilliant (شاعرانہ) century. In short, this match was very interesting and everybody praised the players.

11. A True Muslim

The follower (پیروکار) of Islam is called Muslim. To be a Muslim is a great blessing (نعت - رحمت) of Allah. A Muslim who sincerely (خلوص کے ساتھ) acts upon all the teachings of Islam is called a true Muslim.

A true Muslim has firm belief in the oneness (توحید) of Allah and His revelations (وحی - آسمانی کتاب). He is aware (آگاہ) of this fact (حقیقت) that God knows his every action either hidden (چھپا ہوا) or open.

He leads a simple and pure life. He avoids (پریز کرتا ہے) evil (برے) actions. He believes in the Day of Judgement (روز قیامت). He prepares himself for the life of the hereafter (آخرت کی). He says his prayers regularly. He observes fasts (روزے) in the month of Ramadan. He pays Zakat and other taxes. If he affords, he performs Hajj.

A true Muslim is a responsible citizen (شہری) of Islamic society. He does not harm (نقصان پہنچانا) the other members of his society with his hands or tongue. He gives alms (خیرات) to the needy and the helpless (بے کس).

A true Muslim seeks knowledge. He is clean in habits and pure (خالص) in thoughts. He does not deceive (دھوکہ دینا) anybody. He treats every person with kindness and love. He is the enemy of the devil (شیطان). He fights for the cause of Islam. In fact, a true Muslim is far better than an angel.

12. Life in a Big City

"God made the country, man made the town".

Daily life in a big city is busy (مہرورف) and exciting. It is full of charms, comforts and difficulties (مشکلات) as well. Life in a big city is not as simple and peaceful (پرامن) as is in a village.

Big cities are centres of trade (تجارت) and business. There are many big markets and shopping centres in big cities. As soon as the sun rises, people move on to their jobs in offices, mills, factories and shops. There is a great rush of traffic on roads. Traffic often jams in rush hours. The same thing happens after mid-day when thousands of people return to their homes after the day's work.

The atmosphere (فضا) of big cities is not clean and fresh. It is polluted (آلودہ) with harmful substances (مادے). Sanitation (صفائی) facilities (سہولیات) are inadequate (ناکافی). Heaps of dirt can be seen everywhere (ہر جگہ).

The residents (رہائشی) of big cities have no peace of mind. Worries (پریشانیاں) and cares are the part and parcel of their life. People are stuck in the groove of the routine life. They do not find any time to relax (تسکین دینا) themselves.

"Cities teach me nothing but people living in them do" (Aristotle)

Big cities are centres of knowledge (علم). There are many schools, colleges and other educational institutions in big cities. Besides this, medical facilities (طبی سہولیات) are easily available. But life in a big city is a whirlpool of different activities.

"Man's course begins in a garden but it ends in a city"

13. Village Life

Here goes a famous saying "God made the country, man made the town".

This sums up the belief that the village is a natural and original part of the world to live on. Because villages and the countryside provide the fresh air of Nature (فطرت). The villagers get fresh vegetables (سبزیاں) and nourishing (مقوی) diet.

Villagers are innocent (معصوم) and lead a simple life. They are not aware (آگاہ) of the evil practices in towns and cities. A village is an embodiment (مجموعہ) of simplicity and sincerity (خلوص). There are lush-green fields, the grooves (جھنڈ) of shady (سایدار) trees and beautiful landscapes (منظر) in a village. People enjoy the sweet music of birds. The scenes of sunrise (طلوع آفتاب) and sunset add charm (دکھائی) to village life.

Life in a village is easier and cheaper (زیادہ سستی). But there are also some disadvantages (نقصانات) of village life. The villages have no sufficient (معتقول) facilities of schools, colleges, roads and hospitals. They live in miserable (بدحال) conditions. But they face the hardships (مشکلات) bravely and seldom (کبھی نہیں) complain (شکایت کرنا).

The life in a small village is worth-enjoying (قابلِ لطف) because it provides peace of mind to the rejected (افردہ) hearts. People are less material and more spiritual. Religion plays a vital role in the culture of villagers.

"The first requisite to man's happiness is the birth of village"

14. Television

Television is one of the wonderful (حیرت انگیز) inventions (ایجادات) of science. It provides (فراہم کرتا ہے) the cheapest (سستی ترین) entertainment (تفریح) for the whole family. It enables us to watch things happening at a remote (دور دراز) place. Many different programmes are presented on T.V. daily. They include films, songs, plays (ڈرامے) and debates (مباحثے). Now a days people like to watch colour televisions.

T.V. is a source of knowledge and information. National programmes provide us a lot of information about current affairs (حالاتِ حاضرہ). Moreover (علاوہ ازیں) T.V. is a useful source for distant learning (فاصلاتی تعلیم). Thousands of students who are unable to attend the schools, colleges and universities can be educated through T.V. programmes.

Small screen of T.V. has become so popular (مشہور) that people have stopped going to cinemas. Many quiz programmes are telecast on T.V. and they continue for the whole year. We can learn much about the history (تاریخ) and culture (ثقافت) of our country through T.V.

But there are certain abuses (غلط استعمال) of T.V. School going children spend most of their time in watching T.V. They do not pay attention (توجہ) to their studies. They should not watch T.V. for a long time as it is harmful (نقصان دہ) for eyesight (بصارت).

15. A Visit to a Hill Station

"Hill stations are Nature's special craftsmanship" (John Hethley)

Hill stations occupy huge part of natural beauty on the surface of earth. No doubt, Nature keeps its arms and lap open at hill stations. In Pakistan, there are great resorts for soothing pleasure. My visit to Murree Hills still refreshes me as a pleasant memory.

Last Summer, our class decided to visit Murree. Murree is a beautiful hill-resort (پہاڑی صحت افزا مقام), 42 kilometers away from Islamabad. We took our bus and reached Murree in the evening. We were tired of long journey. But all our fatigue (تھکاوٹ) ended when we saw the beautiful natural scenery of Murree. We enjoyed the cool breeze, the singing of the birds and the delightful (دلکش) scenery. The beauty of the landscape fascinated (مصور کر دیا) us. The road to Murree was zigzagging (میل کھاتی ہوئی). As the bus went ascending, we got frightened. There were many turns on the road. We were afraid of an accident (حادثہ) but thank God, we reached our destination (منزل) safe and sound. We stayed for a fortnight (پندرہ دن) at Murree and enjoyed ourselves to our hearts' content (جی بھر کر). After a stay of fifteen days, we returned to our homes. We were fully refreshed. We decided to revisit Murree during the next summer.

16. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

(My National Hero)

*"Small minds discuss people,
Average minds discuss events,
Great minds discuss ideas".*

Muhammad Ali Jinnah was not only a figure but a great idea of Nature for us. He is famous as Quaid-i-Azam. He is called the father of nation (بابائے قوم). He was born in Karachi on December 25, 1876. He received his early education from Karachi. After Matriculation (میٹرک), he went to England for higher studies (اعلیٰ تعلیم). He qualified from the Lincoln's Inn as a brilliant (قابل) barrister. On his return to India, he joined the Indian National Congress.

He was the greatest supporter of the Hindu-Muslim unity (اتحاد). But the character of certain narrow-minded (تنگ ذہن) Hindu leaders disappointed (مایوس کیا) him. So he decided to join Muslim League. After joining Muslim league, he worked very hard for a separate (الگ) homeland (وطن) for

the Muslims. The Hindus, The British and a section of Muslims opposed (مخالفت کی) him. But he faced every problem bravely.

In 1934, he became the president (صدر) of All India Muslim League. On March 23, 1940, at the historic (تاریخی) session (اجلاس) of the Muslim League in Lahore, the Pakistan Resolution (قرارداد پاکستان) was passed. The dream of a separate homeland came true on August 14, 1947.

Quaid-i-Azam became its first Governor-General.

He had great qualities of head and heart. He never compromised over principles. He meant what he said. He worked day and night to make Pakistan great and strong. Heavy pressure of work affected (بر اثر ڈالا) his health and he died in Karachi on September 11, 1948.

17. Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts is a useful (مفید) movement (تحریک) for the youth. It was founded (بنیاد رکھی) by Lord Baden Powell in 1910. It soon spread in the whole world. It is appreciated for its simple and noble (نیک) objectives (مقاصد).

A boy, wishing to become a scout, is required to take an oath (حلف). He has a keen sense of duty and loyalty (وفاداری) to God Almighty, to his country and to his people in general. A boy scout has many qualities (خوبیاں). He bears a good moral character. He enjoys a sound physical (جسمانی) and mental (ذہنی) health. He is always ready to help the injured (زخمی), the needy and the helpless (بے یار و مددگار). He respects the feelings of others and always speaks gently.

Moreover (اس کے علاوہ), a scout has the qualities of leadership. He is firm (مضبوط) and noble in command (حکم). He is humble (عاجز) and obedient (اطاعت). A scout learns many useful skills (مہارتیں) and crafts (دستکاریاں). He learns the use of knife and axe. He can tie (باندھنا) various knots (گرہیں). He also knows how to cook food.

A scout is a supporter of brotherhood (بھائی چارہ) and good-will (اچھے جذبات) among people. In peace and distress (تکلیف), a boy scout shows courage, responsibility (ذمہ داری) and self-confidence (خود اعتمادی).

18. My Favourite Book

Study of books is a good and desirable (قابل خواہش) habit. It is an essential (ضروری) part of every literate (ادبی) person. But there are a large number of different books. A quite long life is required to study them. Hence we have to select them according to our taste and need. Everybody has his own taste and choice. We should be very careful about the selection of books. We should

select such books as are really useful. Right selection of books can reform our lives, while their wrong selection can spoil our lives. Francis Bacon has rightly said,

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed (نگلتا) and a few to be chewed (چبانا) and digested" (ہضم کرنا).

I have read many books but the book I like most is the Holy Quran. It is an eternal and universal book. It means the most widely read books. Its author is not a human being. God is its Author. It was revealed (نازل) by God to the Holy Prophet (SAW). It consists of 30 parts. The companions of the Holy Prophet (SAW) collected the parts on which verses were written and gave them the shape of a book.

It is written in Arabic. Its language is impressive (مؤثر) and forceful (پرزور). It is the greatest miracle (معجزہ) of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

It is full of knowledge and wisdom. It guides man completely. It tells us how to live in this world. It presents the complete and perfect code of life. Every aspect (پہلو) of life is discussed in it in detail. It can meet all the challenges in all the times. It is entirely meant for the betterment of human life. If we act upon its teachings, we can succeed in this world and the world hereafter.

I daily recite (تلاوت کرنا) the Holy Quran. It is great source (وسیلہ) of satisfaction for me. It is the best source of nearness to God. God says in the Holy Quran,

"Verily I have revealed (نازل کرنا) this book and I am its only guard."

This is a great revolutionary (انقلابی) book. The Holy Prophet (SAW) brought about the greatest Islamic revolution in the world with the help of the Holy Quran. We should recite, understand and act upon this great book. May God bless us with it.

19. My Ambition

"An ambition in life is the only fortune worth."

An ambition is the greatest motivating force that determines (تعیین کرنا) the course of one's life. Life without an ambition is like a sandy desert where no flower blooms (کھلتا). It is the guiding principle of life that urges us to head towards our destination (منزل) or goal of life. Greatness and success in life are not like wind falls. They are achieved through honest labour and perfect devotion to one's ideal.

Shakespeare says, that

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them."

Man himself is the maker of his destiny and the architect of his own fate. It has been rightly said by Francis Bacon,

"The mould of a man's fortune (قسمت) is in his own hands."

When a man does not know what harbour he is making for, no wind is the right wind. There are as many aims as men. Some want to be civil and military officers, others want to be engineers and doctors. Some want to be lawyers, others to be judges. All that suits to the aptitude (گنجی رجحان) of a man is the best aim for him.

The greatest ambition of my life is to be a teacher. The best people in the world are those who impart knowledge to others and who are the makers of a nation's destiny (قسمت). To me this profession is the only profession through which a man can serve the ignorant people in the best possible way. A teacher is like a lamp spreading light that shows the path to those who are wandering aimlessly in the darkness of ignorance (جهالت).

A teacher is like a ladder, which remains at the same place, but helps others to ascend higher and higher. Great teachers have always achieved an immortal (لافانی) place in the temple of fame.

Aristotle, Socrates and Plato were the greatest teachers of their time. Their ideas and works have deeply influenced (متاثر ہونا) every aspect of life and people are still deriving inspiration and light out of their works. Whatever others think of my aim, I am satisfied that this aim suits perfectly to my taste. Wordsworth has said,
A noble aim,

Faithfully kept, is as a noble deed. In whose pure sight all virtue succeeds.

20. My Hobby

Hobby means something, which we do in our spare time for the sake of pleasure (خوشی). It is not a profession. Every man has his own hobby according to his taste. Some are fond of reading books. Some like stamp collecting, some like to collect old coins, while others find it a pleasure to play some indoor games. There are some who find photography. Painting or traveling as means of recreation.

Sir Winston Churchill has rightly said, "A hobby is an alternative (متبادل) mental interest."

My hobby is stamp collecting. I am always ambitious (پر جوش) to collect new and old stamps of my own country and of various other countries. My father, who works in a big organization, also brings me the stamps of various countries.

Stamp collecting is considered a royal hobby. It is a very expensive (مہنگا) hobby. My pocket money is not enough to meet the expenses of all the new stamps, which I want to collect. My father gives me rupees three hundred a month to buy the new stamps.

I have very nice stamp albums. I feel pride in showing them to my visitors, guests and friends. I have pen friends all over the world. I exchange the stamps with them. Every stamp has a tale to tell about a country and its people. There are also the pictures of kings, rulers and great men. These beautiful pictures are really a great source of inspiration (حوصلہ افزائی) to me.

This hobby helps me in making pen friends from other countries. It has added to my knowledge about various countries and nations. I have so far collected thousands of stamps of various countries. This hobby has provided me with a joy forever. Some of my friends are of the viewpoint that I waste my time. In fact, they are unaware that hobbies are also an inevitable part of education.

To conclude, a hobby is adopted for the sake of spending the spare time, deriving (حاصل کرنا) joy and taking rest. I am satisfied with my hobby, because it suits my taste, temperament (مزاج) and resources (وسائل).

21. Our School Canteen

Away from the boring class work and within the boundary of school, a school canteen is the most pleasant place to enjoy. The moments spent in the school canteen provide us plenty of comfort and relief to refresh minds.

Our school canteen is a lovely place of great pleasure. The contractor is seen to bustle about with his staff when break starts. The recess period at canteen becomes hatch-potch of things when the army of girls/boys pounces upon the building of canteen.

The whole building becomes the hostage to the students of the school. These are the moments when the contractor earns a huge fortune. To speak about the building itself, it is a square hall with so many counters, round tables. Chairs are placed in proper order that becomes a mess during the hours of recess. Things are sold like hot cakes. Counters for the junior and senior section boys and girls are apart. Prefects, with their noses in the air, appear to be strict disciplinarians. Students can have every kind of eatables and drinks. Our school canteen is, no doubt, a place of real enjoyment if you have some money in your pocket.

The attitude of the staff of school canteen is mix behaviour. They are very polite when to receive money and equally impolite otherwise. If taken as a whole, our school canteen is no less than a heaven for those who are greedy in their hunger. Because,
"Somebody's eyes are bigger than their stomachs".

22. My Best Friend

"A friend is like a nectar (نر) that sweetens the bitterness (کڑی) of our life."

People often talk about friendship but nobody knows what it means. It is a perfumed flower which blossoms (کھلتا) in different hearts and the more it is cherished, the better fruit it brings forth. True friend is like a shady tree that gives us shelter from the broiling heat of the sun. It has been truly remarked,

"A faithful friend is a balm (مرهم) to our wounded hearts."

A faithful friend is the best medicine of life, and my friend should act as a balm to my heart. Mr. Ayaan is my best friend, he is a gentleman to the backbone. He comes of an educated family. He is a model of modesty (پاکیزگی). On his every visit to me, he makes me happy. He is always hopeful. He always looks at the bright side of things. He is a source (منبع) of inspiration (حوصلہ) to me. When I am sad and grieved (غم) his company removes the darkness of my mind.

He is a humanist (انسان دوست). He does not look down upon the poor. He always tries his best to help the poor and the needy. He often expresses (بیان کرنا) his viewpoint that the rich and the poor should be treated equally in the society. He says that the poor should also be given the equal chances to rise in life. In fact, he believes in equality and democracy.

He has also some human weaknesses. He is a spendthrift. His motto (منشور) is, "Spend and God will send." He is also fond of fine and expensive clothes. He is also not industrious (مختی). He does not bother about his studies. He is, no doubt, intelligent. He regularly reads the newspapers, journals and magazines. He knows all the important facts of life. He is fully in touch with the current affairs of the world, too.

To conclude, friends are those who stand by us through thick and thin (دکھ سکھ میں). True friends do not leave us in the lurch. A sincere and selfless friend is a great blessing. Emily Dickinson has rightly said.

"My friends are my estate. Forgive me then the avarice (حرص) to hoard (ذخیرہ کرنا) them"